Department of State **TELEGRAM**

EXCISE

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /061 W
------------------060337 160605Z /15
R 151810Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8766
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY RB DATE 25 JUN 1982
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 7557

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: [redacted] ON UPCOMING PARTY ELECTIONS AND RUMORS OF CABINET SHIFTS

REF: (A) KINGSTON 7408, (B) KINGSTON A-93 DTD NOV 26, 1977

1. IN COURSE OF A CONVERSATION ON DECEMBER 14, [redacted] TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT HE PRESENTLY ANTICIPATES THAT ELECTION OF THE FOUR VICE PRESIDENT OF THE RULING PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PNP), ABORTED AT THE SEPTEMBER PARTY CONGRESS (SEE KINGSTON 5368), WILL PROBABLY BE RESOLVED BY A COMPROMISE. THE RESUMED CONGRESS, NOW TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY, HAS JUST BEGUN TO STIR INTEREST. AND HIS VIEWS ARE SOMEWHAT TENTATIVE. [redacted] PARTY'S "MODERATE" FACTION HAS A SLATE OF CANDIDATES: FOREIGN MINISTER P.J. PATTERSON, PUBLIC SERVICE MINISTER HOWARD COOKE, MINISTER OF STATE FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS CARMEN MACGREGOR AND [redacted] ADDED THAT HE THINKS THAT THE "RADICAL" FACTION HAS ALSO PUT TOGETHER A SLATE CONSISTING OF
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FORMER PNP GENERAL SECRETARY D.K. DUNCAN, HOUSING

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EXCISE [redacted]

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MINISTER TONY SPAULDING, YOUTH AND SPORTS MINISTER HUGH SMALL AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAND REFORM DESMOND LEAKEY. ASKED WHETHER THE "RADICALS" ARE CONVASSING FOR SUPPORT, [redacted] SAID THAT HE UNDERSTANDS DUNCAN IS "WORKING" BUT COULD NOT COMMENT ON THE OTHERS. WHEN ASKED WHETHER OR NOT THE EXISTENCE OF TWO SLATES SUGGESTED THAT THERE WOULD BE A CONFRONTATION AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING, [redacted] THE "RADICALS" WILL FIND THEMSELVES TOO WEAK TO HAZARD A STRAIGHT CONTEST AND A COMPROMISE WILL DOUBTLESS RESULT. HE SAID THAT HE EXPECTS THE RESUMED CONGRESS TO BE PRESENTED WITH A SINGLE SLATE CONSISTING OF PATTERSON, MACGREGOR, SPAULDING [redacted] MOREOVER, IF A COMPROMISE IS NOT POSSIBLE AND THERE IS ANY RISK OF A CONFRONTATION, HE SUGGESTED A FURTHER POSTPONEMENT OF THE ELECTION COULD OCCUR. b (1) ED b (1) ED b (1) ED

2. ASKED ABOUT RUMORS OF CABINET SHIFTS (SEE REFTEL), [redacted] FLATFOOTEDLY THAT FINANCE MINISTER DAVID COORE WILL NOT STEP DOWN. HE WAS FAR LESS CATEGORICAL ABOUT NATIONAL SECURITY MINISTER KEBLE MUNN, AND LEFT A DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT MUNN IS, IN FACT, MOVING TOWARD THE DOOR. HE THEN SAID THAT HOWARD COOKE MAY WELL STEP DOWN AND BE REWARDED WITH AN APPOINTMENT ABROAD. [redacted] COMMENTED ON PNP PROSPECTS IN ANY BY-ELECTIONS WHICH MIGHT RESULT. HE SAID THAT EVEN IF COORE WERE TO RESIGN (AND HE AGREED THAT EVEN THOUGH THIS IS NOT CONTEMPLATED, COORE'S VERY UNCERTAIN HEALTH COULD MAKE IT NECESSARY), THE PNP WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM IN THE FINANCE MINISTER'S WESTERN ST. ANDREW CONSTITUENCY. SIMILARLY, IF COOKE STANDS DOWN, CHARLES SINCLAIR -- PRESENTLY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE -- b (1) ED b (1) ED

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WOULD BE THE PNP CANDIDATE IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE MINISTER'S NORTHWESTERN ST. JAMES CONSTITUENCY, AND SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM IN WINNING. PNP VICTORY IN MUNN'S EASTERN ST. ANDREW CONSTITUENCY WOULD, HOWEVER, BE PROBLEMATICAL. (NOTE: [redacted] SPOKE HOURS BEFORE THE OPPOSITION JAMAICA LABOUR PARTY ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD NOT CONTEST ANY ELECTION -- MIDTERM OR OTHERWISE -- UNTIL ELECTORAL REFORMS ARE ENACTED. THE ANNOUNCEMENT MIGHT WELL HAVE ALTERED HIS THINKING ON MUNN'S SEAT.) b (1) ED

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